A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2026 has been another remarkable year for Missions of Honor/Old Glory Honor Flight! As our mission grows, so does our commitment to honoring America's heroes.

Since 2009, Old Glory Honor Flight has flown more than 8,000 veterans to Washington D.C., to visit memorials honoring their service and sacrifice. Today, as Missions of Honor, we've expanded our programs to serve veterans of all ages and eras, thanks to your generosity and support.

THE HEART OF OUR MISSION: OUR VETERANS

In 2026, we continued bringing veterans to Washington, D.C., for their well-deserved "Tour of Honor." We're especially grateful to American Airlines' Veterans Initiative Program for donating the charter aircraft for our annual Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight during EAA AirVenture.

Pictured above: Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight Veterans at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

A MISSION OF HEALING, A LIFETIME OF IMPACT

This marked our fourth year offering Freedom to Liberty Retreat: A Mission of Healing, and our first year hosting two retreats! Created for Global War on Terrorism veterans, this three-night New York City experience includes visits to the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, One World Trade Center, and Statue of Liberty. More importantly, it offers camaraderie, reflection, and connection with fellow veterans.

Pictured above: Army Veteran Dan Lederhaus - Freedom to Liberty Retreat #5

9/11 first responders and distinguished guests who personally experienced the trauma of that day have partnered with us to offer participants new perspectives and renewed hope. The impact of these experiences is difficult to put into words, but sometimes a single story says it all.

One veteran shared how the retreat changed her life:

> *"I have tried to put into words how my experience finally pushed me to get help. The emotions that came after returning home from the retreat to New York were hard to express. I decided shortly after it was time to get the help I needed for my PTSD. It's been a long road, but I am finally able to write this and tell you that the Freedom to Liberty Retreat saved me. I was in a dark place, and I didn't consider myself a veteran. I had become used to not being accepted because I was a female. I thought I didn't deserve to receive services at the VA because there were people worse off than me. I had forgotten my 'why.' The Freedom to Liberty Retreat made me realize that I am not alone. I remembered that I joined the Army as Military Police to prevent another 9/11 and do my part for our country.*
> *I am happy to say, for the first time, I am proud to be a veteran. I no longer hide behind my husband when people thank him for his service. Now I step up and tell them I served right by his side."* - 2026 Freedom to Liberty alumna; shared with permission, name withheld to protect her privacy

MISSION SALUTE: HONORING VETERANS WHEREVER THEY ARE

This year, we introduced Mission Salute, bringing the spirit of an Honor Flight directly to veterans unable to travel. Through personal visits from fellow veterans and volunteers, we recognize their service, hear their stories, and remind them they are never forgotten.

AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!

With your help, the sky is the limit, and we'll continue to 'Keep 'Em Flying!" But we cannot do it alone. Missions of Honor receives no funding from state, local, or federal government entities. Our programs depend on the generosity of donors, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners like you. Your support helps us reach more veterans and create meaningful, lasting experiences. Our promise remains unchanged: to honor those who served and remind them that their sacrifices matter.

Thank you for believing in our mission and standing beside our veterans. Your generosity is a blessing to our organization and the heroes we serve.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Diane

Diane MacDonald
Executive Director, Missions of Honor, Inc.

A NEW NAME.
AN EXPANDED MISSION.

THE EVOLUTION OF OLD GLORY HONOR FLIGHT INTO MISSIONS OF HONOR

For more than 17 years, Old Glory Honor Flight has proudly honored our nation's veterans, providing unforgettable experiences and the recognition they so greatly deserve. But as the needs of our veteran community have evolved, so has our vision for how we can serve them.

In 2025, we made the decision to establish Missions of Honor, a nonprofit organization designed to bring all our programs together under one name while creating opportunities to serve veterans of all generations, backgrounds, and eras of service.

Today, our organization operates as Missions of Honor, doing business as Old Glory Honor Flight, allowing us to preserve the legacy of our beloved Honor Flight program while expanding our reach through initiatives like Freedom to Liberty: A Mission of Healing and Mission Salute.

This evolution is about more than a name change. It's about recognizing that honoring our veterans can take many forms, whether it's a journey to Washington, D.C., a retreat focused on healing and connection, or bringing a heartfelt welcome home directly to a veteran who cannot travel.

Old Glory Honor Flight remains a cornerstone of who we are, and Missions of Honor represents all that we can become.

As we look toward the future, we're excited about the possibilities ahead and grateful to the donors, volunteers, and community partners who continue to make it all possible.

Our name may have changed, but our mission remains the same: "Honoring America's Heroes, One Mission at a Time."

EXPANDED PROGRAMS TO SERVE ALL AMERICAN HEROES.

★★★ A LOOK INSIDE

OFFICE UPDATES

Please join us in welcoming Karen Boehm and Candice Olson, our newest Program Directors! They join Executive Director Diane MacDonald and Office Receptionist Lisa Eash as part of the Missions of Honor team. Karen and Candice bring a wealth of experience, passion, and heart to our mission of "Honoring America's Heroes, One Mission at a Time."

KAREN BOEHM
Program Director

CANDICE OLSON
Program Director

UPCOMING HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

- November 26 & 27
- December 24 & 25
- January 1, 2027

BOARD ROSTER ★★★

We are incredibly grateful to our Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to our mission, hands-on dedication to our veterans, and the time, passion, and heart they bring to honoring America's heroes:

- Chris Berkers, *President*
- Todd Schroeder, *Vice President*
- Steve Trinkner, *Secretary*
- Tony Van Kampen, *Treasurer*
- Jason Foster, *Board Member*
- Drew MacDonald, *Board Member*
- Mary Simonis, *Board Member*
- *Kim Vachon, Board Member*
- Lorraine Van Kampen, *Board Member*
- Pla Yang, *Board Member*

2026 | BY THE NUMBERS

326	101	26	11
VIETNAM VETERANS	GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT) VETERANS	KOREAN WAR VETERANS	OTHER ERA (VETERANS BETWEEN WWII AND VIETNAM)

WE WILL HAVE FLOWN OVER 500 VETERANS BY THE END OF 2026!

RED | MOH — Serving veterans throughout Wisconsin.

BLUE | OGHF — Serving veterans in 19 counties of Northeast Wisconsin.

PROGRAM UPDATE
OLD GLORY HONOR FLIGHT
★ — MISSIONS 79-82 — ★

Honor Flights provide connection, healing, and lasting memories.

Pictured above: Guardian, Army Veteran James Gambell, & Army Veteran Peter Hertz reading their mail call

As a combat medic with the 7th Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam, James Gambell witness firsthand the harsh realities of war. For James, Old Glory Honor Flight (OGHF) Mission 79 wasn't his first trip to Washington D.C., but it was the most meaningful. Gambell remembers returning home from Vietnam to a welcome that was anything but heroic.

> ***"It was bad. People were screaming. They called us baby killers. Guys took their uniforms off in the bathroom."*** - James Gambell

After his two years in service, Gambell returned to work at a cheese plant in Green Bay, and no one ever said a word. Sixty years later, Gambell had an opportunity to participate in Old Glory Honor Flight (OGHF) Mission 79 and experience the Welcome Home he deserved. As a combat medic, Gambell comforted many soldiers in their last moments. But he often wondered if anyone was there with his lifelong friend Joe when he was killed in action. Through OGHF, he was able to learn that his friend was not alone.

In contrast to his return in 1966, Gambell was overwhelmed by the gratitude people showed throughout the trip to Washington D.C. From school children at Arlington National Cemetery to the Welcome Home at the airport, Gambell was touched by the messages of thanks.

> ***"The best thing that happened for me, besides seeing everything in Washington, was knowing that someone was with Joe when he died. That brought me great comfort. I found his name on the wall and etched it so I could have it framed."***
> - James Gambell

Robert "Bob" Obma went to enlist as a doctor in the Air Force in 1967 only to find out he had already been drafted. After a brief stint at Travis Air Force Base in California, he was sent to Cam Ranh Base in Vietnam where he worked at a provincial hospital.

After his tour, Obma recalls landing in Madison, Wisconsin, before arriving home to Dodgeville. Obma participated in OGHF Mission 80 with his son as his guardian.

Pictured above: Air Force Veteran Bob Obma & his guardian son at the Vietnam Wall

PROGRAM UPDATE

OLD GLORY HONOR FLIGHT

★ — MISSIONS 79-82 — ★

> ***"They [Madison] hated soldiers at that time. But they liked soldiers in Dodgeville."*** - Bob Obma

For Obma, the camaraderie with other veterans was the most impactful part of the trip.

Pictured above: Group picture of OGHF Mission 80

> ***"I can relate strongly to the veterans and getting together with the guys. That was meaningful. America sometimes hates her soldiers and sometimes loves them. I've experienced it both ways. This was a very positive thing."*** - Bob Obma

It's stories like this that inspire Old Glory Honor Flights (OGHF) at Missions of Honor. The OGHF is a one-day mission that flies local veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built in their honor.

SINCE 2009 8,400

Veterans from NE Wisconsin have participated in Old Glory Honor Flights, connecting with fellow veterans and experiencing the gratitude of our nation.

Pictured left: Vietnam Veteran Chong Seng Yang OGHF

★ ★ ★

PROGRAM UPDATE

FREEDOM TO LIBERTY RETREAT

★ — RETREATS 4 & 5 — ★

Veteran Ashley Smits served in the Air Force Communication (IT) department in Germany, worked on Security Hill in a Crypto Unit, and helped create the Air Force Cyber Team. Following her time in service, she went through a period where she was in a very dark place even pulling away from social activities and involvement with family and friends.

In August 2026, Smits participated in Freedom to Liberty Retrea: A Mission of Healing (FTL). FTL is a no-cost, multi-day journey that takes Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) veterans to New York City where they visit the Freedom Tower, 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and the Statue of Liberty. and find healing and hope. Meeting fellow veterans helped give Smits a fresh perspective on past events and find needed support and connection. Smits like many veterans, returned from service carrying burdens that are difficult to put into words. That is why Missions of Honor (MOH) created FTL.

Pictured above: Air Force Veteran Ashley Smits at 9/11 memorial

PROGRAM UPDATE
FREEDOM TO LIBERTY RETREAT

★ — RETREATS 4 & 5 — ★

> ***"There was a camaraderie and connection (that felt safe) with everyone on this retreat that began to pull me out of that place, and our squad's continued group chat is a connection I now cherish. Most importantly, I have started counseling to professionally address some bigger topics I have previously ignored."*** -Ashley Smits

MOH offered two back-to-back FTL retreats this year. The traditional retreat was held in August and a second retreat was planned when the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) invited MOH to partner on an event to commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11.

Veterans heard powerful stories of trauma, resilience, and hope from 9/11 first responders Will Jimeno, David Lim, Scott Strauss, and John Ryan, along with Medal of Honor recipient David Bellavia and Air Force Col. (Ret.) Allison Black.

Nicole Burrington, a Navy veteran and first responder in Western Wisconsin, attended the September retreat. Stationed at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa during the 9/11 attacks, Burrington supported aviation operations, tracking flight crews and aircraft while helping launch missions and recovery efforts. Despite her contributions, Burrington had often questioned the importance of her service because she had not experienced combat firsthand. Connecting with fellow Veterans during FTL helped change that perspective.

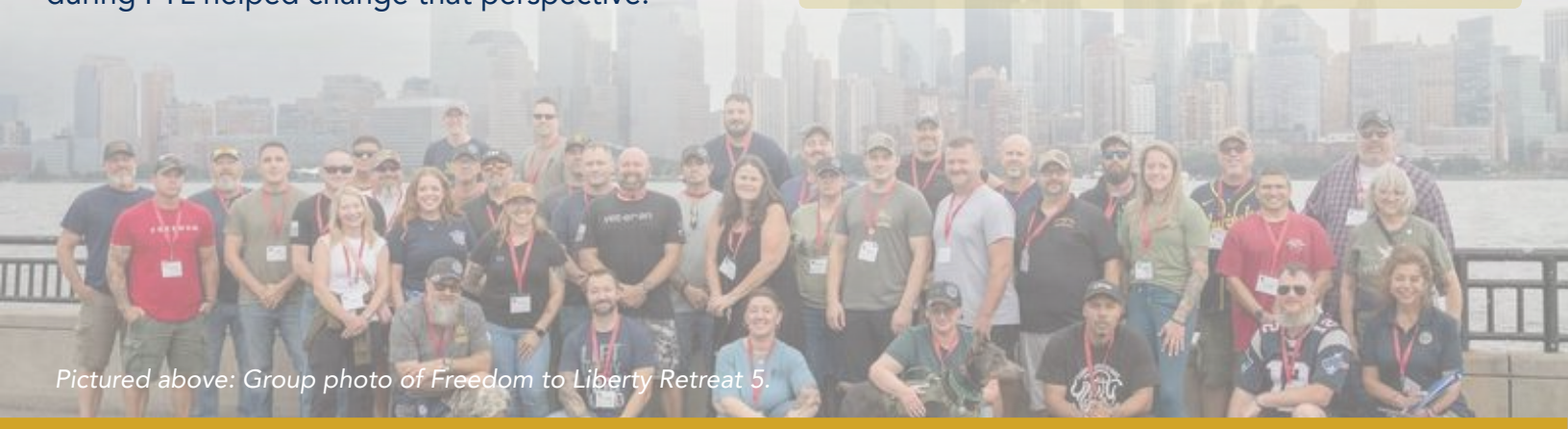
Pictured above: Army Veteran Joseph Campbell at the Empty Sky 9/11 Memorial

Pictured above: Navy Veteran Nicole Burrington

> ***"While I was there, every one of the vets, many who had traumatic experiences, affirmed that what I did was important. They told me I did my piece to launch recovery missions and evacuations to come and save them. Each person has a piece of the puzzle."*** - Nicole Burrington

For both Smits and Burrington, FTL provided more than a trip. It offered understanding, lasting connections, and an opportunity to move forward with renewed hope. Both now encourage fellow veterans to take that same step.

> ***"To any veteran on the fence about signing up, do it. I promise it will be a positive life-changing opportunity!"*** - Ashley Smits



Pictured above: Group photo of Freedom to Liberty Retreat 5.

★★★ SPECIAL MISSION

PEARL HARBOR

PEARL HARBOR... 85 YEARS LATER

In 2012, Old Glory Honor Flight brought 19 Pearl Harbor survivors from Wisconsin back to Hawaii to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the attacks.

Nearly 15 years later, we're returning. December 2nd-10th, with support from American Airlines, Missions of Honor will bring 85 World War II veterans and Rosie the Riveters from across the country to Pearl Harbor for the 85th anniversary.

Together, we'll honor the courage and sacrifice of a generation that changed history.

Follow this extraordinary journey on Facebook at **facebook.com/missionsofhonor**.

Pictured above: Group picture of veterans, Return to Pearl Harbor, 2012

★★★

★★★ VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

MEET BRUCE CARLSON

U.S. NAVY | PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS (E-6) | 1972–1980

Pictured above: Navy Veteran Bruce Carlson

Pictured above: Group picture Vietnam Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight Mission 82

For eight years, Bruce Carlson proudly served in the U.S. Navy aboard nuclear-powered submarines. After completing Nuclear Power School, he served aboard the USS Von Steuben and USS James Madison, completeing nine patrols from Holy Loch, Scotland. Bruce recalls surfacing only twice during those patrols, including one unforgettable moonless night for a fellow sailor's medical evacuation. The darkness was so complete he couldn't distinguish the sea from the sky.

During his service, Bruce earned the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and recognition for earning his submarine qualification insignia, known as "Dolphins," in just one patrol.

Following his military service, Bruce worked at Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant. In 2025, Bruce joined 99 fellow veterans, including Medal of Honor recipient Gary Littrell, on a Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight at EAA AirVenture. Thank you, Bruce, for your service, sacrifice, and commitment to our country!

★★★ RECAP

PULLING FOR HONOR 2026

★ 8TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT ★

Pictured above: Group picture, Pulling for Honor Team 2026

The 8th Annual Pulling for Honor brought together **28 teams** to take on the ultimate challenge: pulling a **160,000-pound airplane**, all in support of our veterans! The event raised an incredible **$125,000 in fundraising revenue**!

Thanks to our wonderful partnerships with Appleton International Airport and Appleton Flight Center, this free, family-friendly event offered something for everyone. Many teams return year after year, bringing friendly competition and an unwavering commitment to honoring our nation's heroes.

A heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors, whose continued support makes this event possible, along with the teams, volunteers, and community members who come together each year to make a difference for our veterans!

28 TEAMS | **160,000 POUND PLANE** | **$125,000 RAISED**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2027 EVENT ON AUGUST, 21, 2027!

★ Presto Products ★ Andrew & Camilla Schmidt Foundation ★ Menasha Corporation ★ Belmark, Inc. ★ Edward Jones ★ Gulfstream Aerospace ★ Network Health ★ Hurckman Mechanical Industries, Inc. ★ Miller Electric ★ Festival Foods ★ Appleton Flight Center ★ Appleton International Airport ★

★★★ THANK YOU!

Every Mission Begins with You! Behind every mission is a community of people who believe in giving back to those who have given so much. From businesses organizing fundraisers and sponsors stepping forward to volunteers donating their time and individuals making heartfelt gifts, each act of generosity plays an important role in bringing our missions to life. It's more than a donation or a day of volunteering. It's an opportunity to give veterans moments of connection, healing, and recognition that stay with them long after the experience ends. Help us give another Veteran the experience of a lifetime. **Help another veteran fly!** **Visit missionsofhonor.org/donate.**

Pictured above: Group picture, Pulling for Honor Check Presentation 2026

★★★ NEW PROGRAM

MISSION SALUTE

Pictured above: Sergeant First Class Jason Foster, MOH Board Member & Mission Salute Program Lead and Missons Medical Corps Coordinator Jamie Lodes during a home visit with a veteran

When a veteran cannot attend an Honor Flight, we are committed to bringing the Honor Flight experience to them.

Whether due to health, mobility, personal circumstances, or any other reason, we believe every veteran deserves to hear the words, “Thank you for your service,” and “Welcome home.” Every Veteran deserves to feel the gratitude of a community that remembers their sacrifices and honors their place in our nation's story.

Through Mission Salute, we bring that recognition, gratitude, and celebration directly to our veterans, ensuring their service and sacrifices are never forgotten. They answered the call. Now it's our turn to show up.

Mission Salute currently serves veterans in Northeast Wisconsin. To request a Mission Salute for a veteran, call the Missions of Honor office: **920-257-2563.**

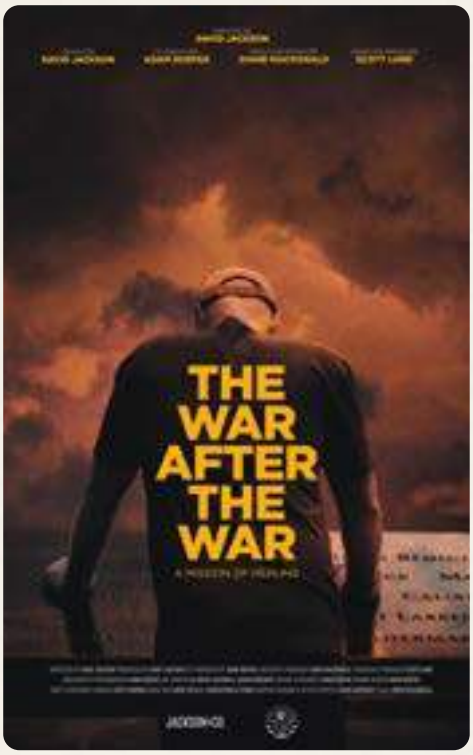
★★★ MOVIE PREMIERE!

THE WAR AFTER THE WAR

WORLD PREMIERE & Q&A

Join Missions of Honor in partnership with Jackson & Co. for the world premiere of *The War After the War*, a powerful documentary following veterans of the post-9/11 era through our Freedom to Liberty Retreat in New York City. Filmed over the course of a year, this moving film shares their personal stories of struggle, resilience, healing, and hope, reminding us that for many veterans, the battle doesn't end when they return home. A special Q&A will follow the screening.

STAY TUNED! DETAILS ON OUR UPCOMING MOVIE PREMIERE, Q&A EVENT, AND ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS IN DECEMBER 2026 WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON.



★ ★ ★ LOOKING AHEAD

2027 DATES

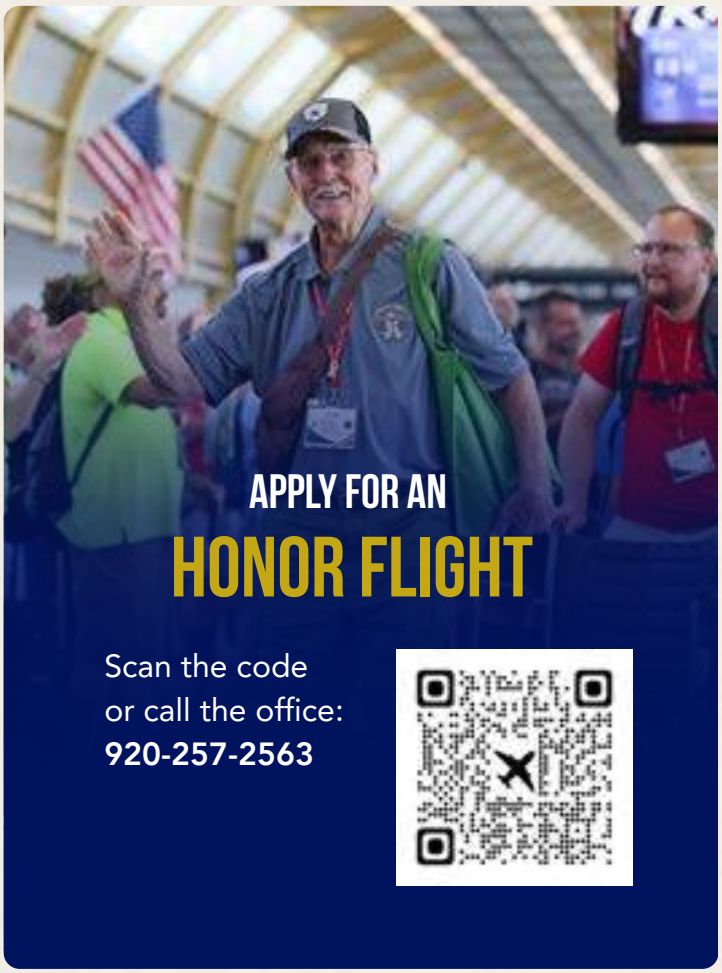
As we look ahead to the 2027 flight season, we are excited to share that Old Glory Honor Flight is expanding its eligibility! We will always be committed to honoring our senior veterans, but we are also opening the door to more veterans who served in more recent eras.

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY!

Any veteran who served in active duty in **any** branch of the US military, **anywhere in the world, on or before July 1, 1991,** is eligible for an Old Glory Honor Flight.

FEMALE VETERANS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!

We look forward to welcoming even more deserving veterans on their own Tour of Honor. We remain humbled by the opportunity to recognize these heroes, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who helps make these life-changing experiences possible.



APPLY FOR AN

HONOR FLIGHT

Scan the code
or call the office:
920-257-2563

APPLY TO VOLUNTEER

AS A GUARDIAN

Scan the code
or call the office:
920-257-2563